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United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-3205

September 23, 2013

The Honorable Sally Jewell
Secretary
Department of the Interior
1849 C Street, N.W.
Washington DC 20240

Dear Secretary Jewell,

I write in support of the designation of the Albany Pine Bush Preserve as a National Natural Landmark by the National Park System Advisory Board.

The Albany Pine Bush Preserve is a unique ecosystem located on a 3,200-acre site in Albany County, New York. The preserve is one of the best-remaining examples of an inland pine barren habitat. The open areas and well-drained sandy soils of the preserve support a globally-rare pitch pine-scrub oak community and is home to more than 1,300 species of plants, 156 species of birds, 20 species of amphibians and reptiles, and 30 species of mammals, as well as rare species of butterflies and moths. Among its diverse flora and fauna, the Albany Pine Bush supports the federally-listed endangered Karner blue butterfly, as well as the rare inland barrens buckmoth. The Albany Pine Bush is the site of one of thirteen Federal Recovery Units working to rebuild adult populations and restore suitable habitat for the Karner blue butterfly across the range of the endangered species.

National Natural Landmark designation would provide greatly needed resources for the continued preservation of the Albany Pine Bush and the unique species it supports. This biologically significant habitat is important to our national heritage and natural history, as well as to the continued scientific studies and conservation efforts at the site.

I ask that you please give this application your full consideration. If you have any questions, or desire further information, please do not hesitate to contact my staff member Jamal Halepota at (202) 224-4451.

Sincerely,

Kirsten E. Gillibrand

Kirsten E. Gillibrand
United States Senator